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## ART. VIII. — CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. — *Breve Racconto delle Cose Chiesastiche più Importanti, occorse nel Viaggio fatto sulla Real Fregata Urania, dal 15 Agosto, 1844, al 4 Marzo, 1846.* Per RAFFAELE CAPOBIANCO, Cavaliere del Real Ordine del Merito di Francesco I., e Cappellano della Real Marina. [*A Short Narrative of the most Important Ecclesiastical Matters occurring in a Voyage made on Board the Royal Frigate Urania, from the 15th of August, 1844, to the 4th of March, 1846.* By RAFFAELE CAPOBIANCO, Cavalier, &c., and Chaplain of the Royal Navy.] Napoli. 1846. 8vo. pp. 77.

A LITTLE more than two years ago, a frigate belonging to the navy of his Majesty the King of Naples made its appearance in our waters. After remaining a few weeks in the harbours of New York and Boston, the *Urania*, for this was her name, set sail again for Europe, and having visited some of the ports of Holland, England, and France, returned to Naples in March, 1846. Since her return, an account of her voyage has been published by her worthy chaplain, Padre Raffaele Capobianco, which we esteem ourselves fortunate in being able to introduce to the notice of American readers. Since the publications of Mrs. Trollope and Colonel Hamilton, we have hardly met with a book of travels which can compare with it in liberality of opinion or precision of information.

It appears that the voyage of which it is an account was undertaken at the command of the king, who desired to exercise a portion of his marine, which was suffering from long inaction. With this view, the more important portions of the world were to be visited. After a long passage across the Atlantic to Rio de Janeiro, and thence to St. Helena, the frigate arrived at New York (or *New York*, as the necessities of the Italian language compel it to be written) in the spring of 1845. The chaplain describes the city at some length, but appears to have been chiefly interested in the signs of the flourishing state of the Catholic faith, under the auspices of the excellent Bishop Hus, or Hughes, as we have been accustomed to see the name spelt, and concludes as follows: —

“The infernal enemy, who, like a hungry lion, continually goes about seeking whom he may devour, tried to insinuate the poison of error among our crew by means of Protestants, who, pretending to be possessors of the true sense of the divine Scrip-

tures, interpret them through the deceitful prism of their own passions, and have them continually in their hands, universally endeavouring to propagate them as much as possible by means of the Bible Society. . . . . Now one of these false ministers came on board our vessel to offer the unhappy gift of these adulterated Bibles ; but the commander and myself opposed ourselves to such pernicious generosity. Miserable that they are ! Is it possible that those who are in the dark should give light to those who are in the light, or that the religion which the chief of the Apostles came to preach in their city, and which is maintained pure and ardent as it was handed down from our pious ancestors, should cool in the hearts of Neapolitans ? ”

We confess, we think Padre Capobianco had a right to be indignant ; but we must pass on to his account of Boston. He says, — “ Boston is a city fortified by nature and by art. It rises upon three most pleasant hills, one of which is Bunkerhill, upon the summit of which towers the famous monument named Bunkerhill, erected to commemorate the victory gained by the Americans over the English in 1776. It was commenced by the Engineer O'Donnell Webiter, in 1827, under the presidency of the celebrated la Fayette, and finished in 1843.”\* This actually beats Captain Hall. He goes on : — “ The streets of this city are curved and irregular, paved with wood, furnished with wide sidewalks for the convenience of foot-passengers, and spread into delightful squares of surprising cleanliness. It is composed of vast temples, sumptuous establishments, and fine buildings. Among them the City Hall is chiefly worthy of notice. It rises upon a height near to the public garden, and presents a majestic appearance, with columns of white marble, and wide steps leading to the large hall where the senate meets. . . . . Among the streets, that one is memorable which his grateful country has dedicated to the memory of him who snatched the lightning from the clouds, that is to say, Franklin. . . . . Finally, erected to the adornment of the city are the Exchange, the Custom-house, the Athenæum, the Library, a Museum, a Steam Printing Establishment, and a most beautiful Arsenal, in which is a cabinet enriched with rare and precious articles, ancient and modern, and even from savage nations brought there by the officers of the navy on their return from the most remote portions of the globe.”

Certainly Padre Raffaele observed with favorable eyes, prob-

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\* Lest our readers should doubt the accuracy of our translation, we give here the original : — “ *Esso fu cominciato dall' Ingegniere O' Donnell Webiter nel 1827 sotto la presidenza del celebre la Fayette e terminato nel 1843.* ”

ably because the miserable Protestants did not here attempt to molest him. The Urania left Boston in June, and after going to Holland, visited the English ports of Portsmouth, and Plimout, or Plymouth, or Plismhut, for it is spelt in these three ways within as many pages, and thence returned by the usual route to Naples.

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2. — *Titus Livius : Selections from the first five Books, together with the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Books entire ; chiefly from the Text of Alschevski, with English Notes for Schools and Colleges.* By J. L. LINCOLN, Professor of Latin in Brown University. New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1847. 12mo. pp. 329.

EVEN English scholars admit the light received through German media, and are glad to profit by it in these days. It was to be expected, then, that Cisatlantic students would strive to lay hold of all means of expanding their field of view, even in ancient history and philology. Accordingly, we find the German philologists and classical editors exerting a very decided influence on the studies of our undergraduates and instructors. Professor Lincoln has spent some time in Germany, adding to his early acquirements in the Latin language, and fitting himself for the office of a teacher. He became, doubtless, soon aware, that, while most of our means of study have been, within twenty years, vastly improved, some text-books, which were excellent for their time, have been left stationary, and needed revisal to meet the wants of the present race of pupils and teachers. He has performed his duty as editor in a very creditable manner, giving evidence of unpretending but accurate scholarship, and a conscientious regard for the rights of others.

It is not an easy task to prepare such a book. On the one hand, the editor must give every needful aid ; he must pass over no difficulty without explanation ; he must stimulate to research, and point the way. Yet, on the other hand, he must not, by too much direct aid, enfeeble and render dependent the minds which are to be educated by him. They must learn to act for themselves and judge for themselves, or they will be the worse for every aid offered. Above all, he must make honorable and truthful men by his own upright example.

The notes of such an editor will be rich in references to works where the principles of grammar and interpretation are devel-